

On 2005 Census of Aquaculture

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## Louisiana Tops \$100 Million in Aquaculture sales

Aquaculture sales grew 11.7 percent between the first Census of Aquaculture conducted for 1998 and the most recent conducted for 2005. The 2005 Census of Aquaculture, conducted by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), provides a wide variety of data relating to methods of production, sources of water, sales and sale outlets, cooperative agreements and contracts, size of operations based on sales, and aquaculture distributed for restoration or conservation purposes.

This special census provides a detailed picture of the aquaculture industry, and it reveals that:

- **Louisiana** ranked fourth in total aquaculture sales, capturing 101.3 million dollars or over nine percent of the U.S. total of \$1.1 billion of domestic aquaculture produced in 2005.
- Mississippi topped the sales charts with nearly 23 percent of the U.S. total. Arkansas and Alabama came in second and third, respectively, in sales.
- **Louisiana** led the nation in crustacean farms. Of the 925 farms in the country, 606 were in **Louisiana**; most of these were crawfish farms. Sales of crawfish in the state totaled \$20.4 million in 2005.
- **Louisiana** was ranked third overall in total mollusk sales in the U.S. and second in oyster sales. Washington was first in total mollusk sales.
- The majority of miscellaneous aquaculture (alligators, turtles, frogs, etc) were produced in **Louisiana**. There were 95 such farms with sales totaling over 35 million dollars. Most of this came from the state's 71 turtle farms. **Louisiana** led the nation, by far, in the sale of this species as well.
- **Louisiana** also had the largest number of total aquaculture farms. The state's 873 farms were more than double the number in any other state.
- At the **U.S.** level, food fish (catfish, trout, salmon, tilapia, hybrid striped bass, etc.) accounted for about 62 percent of the aquaculture sales while mollusks (oysters, clams, mussels, etc.) accounted for about 19 percent. Crustaceans (crawfish, lobster, farm raised shrimp, etc.) accounted for five percent of aquaculture sales.

The census of aquaculture contains information about food fish, baitfish, mollusks, crustaceans, ornamental fish, sport/game fish, as well as miscellaneous aquaculture (alligators, turtles, frogs, etc.).

This report was possible due to the cooperation of aquaculture producers throughout Louisiana and especially to the various aquaculture associations which played an integral role.

Complete results of the 2005 Census of Aquaculture, including **Louisiana**-specific data, are available online at: [www.nass.usda.gov/aquaculture](http://www.nass.usda.gov/aquaculture).

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